
HOUSE BILL 2827

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Roberts, Kagi, Dickerson, Appleton, Darneille, Pedersen, Walsh, O'Brien, Sullivan, and Goodman

Read first time 01/16/08. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding the department of community, trade,
2 and economic development's housing pilot program; and amending RCW
3 43.185C.200.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.185C.200 and 2007 c 483 s 604 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The department of community, trade, and economic development
8 shall establish a (~~pilot~~) program to provide grants to eligible
9 organizations, as described in RCW 43.185.060, to provide transitional
10 housing assistance to offenders who are reentering the community and
11 are in need of housing.

12 (2)(a) Initially, there shall be a minimum of two pilot programs
13 established in two counties. The pilot programs shall be selected
14 through a request for proposal process and in consultation with the
15 department of corrections. The department shall select the pilot sites
16 by January 1, 2008.

17 (b) After the effective date of this section, the department shall,
18 within funds appropriated for purposes of this act, expand the program

1 beyond the pilot programs to include sites in other counties, subject
2 to the criteria in subsection (3) of this section.

3 (3) The (~~pilot~~) program shall:

4 (a) Be operated in collaboration with (~~the~~) a community justice
5 center or a community transition coordination network existing in the
6 same county as the location of the pilot site, if any. The lack of a
7 community justice center or a community transition coordination network
8 in the same county as the location of the pilot site shall not, by
9 itself, make an organization ineligible for the program;

10 (b) Offer transitional supportive housing that includes individual
11 support and mentoring available on an ongoing basis, life skills
12 training, and close working relationships with community justice
13 centers or community transition coordination networks, if any, and
14 community corrections officers. Supportive housing services can be
15 provided directly by the housing operator, or in partnership with
16 community-based organizations;

17 (c) In providing assistance, give priority to offenders who are
18 designated as high risk or high needs as well as those determined not
19 to have a viable release plan by the department of corrections;

20 (d) Optimize available funding by utilizing cost-effective
21 community-based shared housing arrangements or other noninstitutional
22 living arrangements; and

23 (e) Provide housing assistance for a period of time not to exceed
24 twelve months for a participating offender.

25 (~~(4) (The department may also use up to twenty percent of the~~
26 ~~funding appropriated in the operating budget for this section to~~
27 ~~support the development of additional supportive housing resources for~~
28 ~~offenders who are reentering the community.~~

29 ~~(5))~~ The department shall:

30 (a) Collaborate with the department of corrections in developing
31 criteria to determine who will qualify for housing assistance; and

32 (b) Gather data, and report to the legislature by November 1, 2008,
33 on the number of offenders seeking housing, the number of offenders
34 eligible for housing, the number of offenders who receive the housing,
35 and the number of offenders who commit new crimes while residing in the
36 housing to the extent information is available.

37 ~~((6))~~ (5) The department of corrections shall collaborate with
38 organizations receiving grant funds to:

1 (a) Help identify appropriate housing solutions in the community
2 for offenders;

3 (b) Where possible, facilitate an offender's application for
4 housing prior to discharge;

5 (c) Identify enhancements to training provided to offenders prior
6 to discharge that may assist an offender in effectively transitioning
7 to the community;

8 (d) Maintain communication between the organization receiving grant
9 funds, the housing provider, and corrections staff supervising the
10 offender; and

11 (e) Assist the offender in accessing resources and services
12 available through the department of corrections and a community justice
13 center or community transition coordination network in the same county
14 as the location of the pilot site, if any.

15 ((+7)) (6) The state, department of community, trade, and economic
16 development, department of corrections, local governments, local
17 housing authorities, eligible organizations as described in RCW
18 43.185.060, and their employees are not liable for civil damages
19 arising from the criminal conduct of an offender solely due to the
20 placement of an offender in housing provided under this section or the
21 provision of housing assistance.

22 ((+8)) (7) Nothing in this section allows placement of an offender
23 into housing without an analysis of the risk the offender may pose to
24 that particular community or other residents.

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